The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September [illegible], 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

VOL. 10. NO. 16. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1920. WHOLE NO. 484.

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

LABOR-FARMER UNITY IS AID TO PROGRESS

Washington, July 10.—"Organized labor extends its fraternal hand to the farmers of our country in the effort to protect all the wealth producers and to make common cause for justice to both," writes President Gompers in American Federationist, current issue.

"Those who till the soil of our country and those who perform the work in the industries of our country have so much in common that their program and their course of action must, of necessity, have much in common. The paramount needs of the farmer and the city wage earner are identical. The great concern of every producer of wealth is to receive in return for his labor an adequate reward. The true measure of the reward received is in the purchasing power of that reward. If, through unfair exploitation, such as we are witnessing on every hand today, the farmers and the workers are deprived of a just reward for their endeavor, a grievance is created. The workers of America on the farm and in the city have such a grievance today.

"Those who seek to exploit both the wage worker of the city and the farmer naturally seek to make it appear that there are differences of principle in order to create suspicion and antagonism between the farmers and the city workers. In every case where this is done the point over which it is sought to make an issue is either a point of minor importance or a question of interpretation.

"What the enemies of labor hope for and what the enemies of the farmer hope for is that labor and the farmers will disagree among themselves and because of disagreement weaken their struggle and make it ineffective."

President Gompers points out that the right of labor to cease giving service—to strike—because of unsatisfactory conditions, is no more important to labor than it is to the farmers. Attention is called to strikes of farmers where conditions have been unsatisfactory.

"In this practice," says President Gompers, "the farmers in the case of the crop for the present year were advised by the United States department of agriculture to decrease their acreage of wheat in order that the reward for effort expended might not fall below what was deemed a proper return."

RUNS TRUE TO FORM.

Washington, July 10.—Postmaster General Burleson runs true to form in his ruling that when an employe in his department reaches the age provided in the retirement law he shall be automatically dropped.

The law permits heads of departments to pass on the competency of an employe who has reached the age limit. Other department heads are retaining employes whose wide knowledge and mental alertness makes them valuable. But the postmaster general orders these employes to get out.

Congressman Lehlbach, joint author of the law, has protested to the president against the postmaster general's order. The lawmaker says the will of congress is ignored by setting aside the provision which permits efficient employes being continued in the service; the efficiency of the postal service is weakened by removing at one time hundreds of men who must be replaced by green and inexperienced men, and the postmaster general "has increased the cost to the government because pensions must be paid to those dismissed while salaries must also be paid to the green men who are brought into the service to replace them."

GAMBLING IN SUGAR.

New York, July 10.—There appears to be plenty of sugar for speculative purposes, according to a statement by Mrs. Louis Reed Welzmiller, deputy commissioner of public markets. She said:

"Housewives have been left in the lurch while speculators held sugar for profit and concessions have been made to the canners and preservers whereby they have even obtained special service from railroads and a special price."

"Samuel A. Berger, of the department of justice," the deputy commissioner said, "is authority for the statement that $200,000,000 has been loaned to finance a speculative condition, or, in other words, to finance or promote speculation in sugar. It is claimed this sugar is in Cuba."

BOOKBINDERS GAIN.

Norwalk, Ohio, July 10. — The Bookbinders' union has established its first minimum wage scale in this city. Males are advanced $4 a week and women have been granted a $16 rate.

Altoona, Pa., July 10. — The new Bookbinders' union has established a weekly rate of $40 for men and $20 for women.

Indianapolis, July 10.—Officers of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders report a good standing membership of 24,168. During June there was a gain of 568.

EL PASO FAVORS CO-OP.

El Paso, July 10.—A co-operative movement has been launched in this city and the central labor union has subscribed to $500 worth of stock. The co-ops. want to sell $100,000 worth of stock.

PLUMBERS ADVANCE.

Frankfort, Ind., July 10.—Organized plumbers in this city defeated a lockout, secured a union-shop agreement and raised wages.

COAL OWNERS OBJECT TO FULL PUBLICITY

Scranton, Pa., July 10.—At the wage hearing in this city before the anthracite coal commission coal owners opposed the consideration of exhibits produced by the miners which charge the coal owners with monopolistic control and profiteering.

On the commission is a representative of the public, who is charged with the duty of protecting the public's interest after he has received full information. The miners are prepared to show the profits of anthracite coal mining companies; the relation of wages to production costs, profits and prices; the wholesale and retail prices of anthracite coal from 1913 to 1920; freight rates and transportation costs of this coal; operating and financial performances of anthracite railroads; combination in the anthracite industry and production costs at the mines in March, 1920.

The coal owners do not want this information considered by the commission. They insist that the miners' demands for wage increases and union recognition are the only issues and the exhibits have no connection with the case.

The coal owners' position is interesting, in view of former claims by them and their defenders that "the interests of the public are paramount." Now the miners want to prove that the public is gouged by the solicitious coal owners.

The miners have proof that the anthracite industry is dominated by seven railroads which control the production, transportation and sale to local dealers of a certain proportion of the total anthracite consumed. These railroads, operating through their coal companies, control over 90 per cent of the unmined coal. This condition permits of only 4 per cent of anthracite coal that is free from the control of this combination.

EDUCATION LEADS.

Philadelphia, July 10. — The claim that there is a shortage of 15,000 teachers makes all other problems of minor importance, declares the Philadelphia North American.

"The walls, roof and furnishings of a house depend on their use and value on the strength of the foundation," says this paper. "The foundation of all we now have is our system of public education. All we can keep of what we have thus far gained and all we can add to it must be built on the same base.

"The facts in the case have been spread broadcast. The need is no more to be questioned than that of food or raiment. The crisis we now face is merely a sample of worse ills we will have to endure unless we promptly effect a change.

"If a hostile navy were to threaten our shores tomorrow, the whole nation would rise and repeat the instant provision of funds for defense which marked our course in the late war, no matter how many billions might be needed. Yet at this moment, a foe which can do us more harm than all the navies in the world is gaining strength in every American city, town and rural community. And the answer we are making to its ugly challenge is, 'Where are we to get the money?'"

KANSAS LAW DOESN'T EXCITE.

Houston, Texas, July 10.—The Houston Chronicle advises other states to go slow in adopting the Kansas plan of stopping strikes by law. This editor says:

"Up in Kansas all innovation is recognized as progress, and no proposal has ever been so freakish but a respectable proportion of Kansas indorsed it.

"The political philosophy of Kansas is that the individual has no rights whatever, even to personal preference in matters which concern no one else.

"The m'jor'ty rules, you know.

"Before adopting the industrial court scheme, the other states may well sit tight and await developments in Kansas.

"When the dust has settled, the spectators outside the ring (which means outside Kansas) will know just what an industrial court can and ought to do, and ought not and can not do."

GEN. GORGAS IS DEAD.

Washington, July 10. — Maj. Gen. Gorgas, former surgeon general of the United States army, died in London, aged 66, after a short illness. Deceased was considered one of the world's foremost authorities on military medicine and surgery, but he secured greater triumphs in the field of sanitation and hygiene. He fought and defeated the malaria mosquito in Panama, and insisted on sanitary homes and living wages for the workers, thus making it possible to build the Panama canal. He dislodged yellow fever from its centuries-old stronghold in Havana and supervised campaigns against this dreaded disease in Central America and South America.

COOPERS RAISE WAGES.

Philadelphia, July 10. — The strike of Coopers' union No. 240 has been adjusted by a wage increase of 15 per cent.

Chicago, July 10.—Coopers' union No. 133 has adjusted a five-weeks' strike. Outside erectors will be paid $1.05 an hour; tank makers, 95 cents; inside machine workers, 90 cents.

MAY EMPLOY CONVICTS.

Montgomery, Ala., July 10.—The Alabama court of appeals has ruled that counties may work short term convicts on the public roads.

No factor contributes more to industrial unrest and instability than excessive costs of necessaries of life. It is a demonstrated truth that the cost of living has advanced more rapidly than have wages. The claim that increasing wages make necessary increased prices is false. It is intended to throw upon the workers the blame for a process by which all the people have been made to suffer. Labor has been compelled to struggle desperately to keep wages in some measure up to the cost of living. The demand for higher compensation to meet new price levels has made industrial readjustment necessary.

Existing high and excessive prices are due to the present inflation of money and credits, to profiteering by those who manufacture, sell and market products, and to burdens levied by middlemen and speculators. We urge:

The deflation of currency; prevention of hoarding and unfair price fixing; establishment of co-operative movements operated under the Rochdale system; making accessible all income tax returns and dividend declarations as a direct and truthful means of revealing excessive costs and profits.

The ideal of America should be the organization of industry for service and not for profit alone. The stigma of disgrace should attach to every person who profits unduly at the expense of his fellowmen.—From "Labor, Its Protest, Grievances and Demands," adopted at Washington, D. C., 1919, by Labor's Representatives.

WANT ALIENS IN U. S. IF THEY SHUN UNIONS

Boston, July 10.—According to a local newspaper, F. W. Mansfield, former treasurer of Massachusetts, gives this advice to trade unions:

"If labor unions are to endure and serve the useful purposes for which they were originally formed and for which they have every right to exist, they must eradicate the radical. The alien must go. Every member of a labor union ought to be an American citizen. Every labor union ought to amend its constitution to that end."

Editor Baine of the Shoe Workers' Journal suggests to Mr. Mansfield that he recognize that the alien is here and that the unions cannot solve the immigration problem in meeting halls.

"The trade union movement," says the labor editor, "has favored restriction of immigration for many years, but congress has been slow to act in that regard. To say that the unions should compel aliens to take out naturalization papers while congress refuses to act is to suggest that the unions undertake a large sized job.

"Many publicists would object to such an arbitrary exercise of authority if the unions had such power that they could afford to drive all aliens either into the unions as citizens or into non-union relations as aliens. If the trade union were to expel an alien because the alien refused to become a citizen, some lawyer, possibly Mr. Mansfield himself, might act as attorney for the alien in remonstrance against what he would then claim to be an act beyond the legal right or power of the union.

"The trade union recognizes all workers as workers, without regard to race, creed or nationality and as proper subjects for membership in unions. Unions recognize the aliens as fellow workers and take them into membership, leaving questions of citizenship to their voluntary act or to the laws of the country."

RAILROADS IN MUDDLE.

Washington, July 10.—The railroad situation in the United States has become involved in a ghastly transportation muddle, declared William B. Colver, member federal trade commission, in an address in this city. "Since 1916," he said, "you have heard a continual clamor about 'car shortage,' and that is taken to mean that there are not enough cars and that the poor, half-starved railroads ought to have more cars. The fact is that if the available open-top cars, after liberal allowance to other industries requiring such cars had been made, were loaded with coal and moved at canalboat speed, being allowed 20 days for a round trip, and being allowed shop time for repairs in excess of the requirements of experience, there are enough cars now on the tracks to move all the coal that this country could possibly use and have a surplus requirement which would take care of over 50,000,000 additional tons, or nearly a 10 per cent overhead factor of safety."

SAVE PRIVATE OWNERSHIP.

New York, July 10.—Railroad owners are alert to the growing demand for government ownership and have appointed a committee of nine railroad executives to develop co-operation between these railroads that better service may result.

This committee will act with the interstate commerce commission. Local committees will be appointed at leading railroad centers.

This action was taken, it was stated, after discussion of a special committee's report, which concluded that in order to preserve private ownership it is incumbent upon the individual companies to establish a voluntary agency authorized to deal promptly and effectively where emergencies arise.

DEMAND DEMOCRACY.

Galesburg, Ill., July 10.—At the largest mass meeting of workers ever held in this city strong ground was taken against the present movement of anti-trade unionists who insist on dealing with employes as individuals. These employers are resorting to the usual high-sounding phrases about "liberty" and "Americanism" to conceal their opposition to collective bargaining, the first step toward democracy in industry.

This fight is being waged around the local telephone company, which has refused to deal collectively with its telephone operators or its electrical workers.

HAVE BUILDING PROGRAM.

Brussels, Belgium, July 10.—The failure of private industry to meet the shortage of housing in this country can be met by the creation of a national building material administration, declared the first annual convention of the amalgamated building trades. The unionists suggest that the commission be composed of three technical experts, three labor representatives, three consumers' representatives and three representatives of the interested industries.

STREET CAR STRIKE ENDS.

Toronto, Ontario, July 10. — The Toronto Railway company has raised wages 5 cents an hour after a five-days' strike of its 2,500 organized employes.

Rock Island, Ill., July 10.—Wage increases that range from 8 to 10 cents an hour is the award of an arbitration board in the case of the street car employes of this city, Moline and Davenport.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

Oakland, Cal., July 10.—The strike of Teamsters' union No. 70 has ended by Draymen's association agreeing to a wage increase of 50 cents a day. When the teamsters first suggested higher rates, the bosses vowed they would not meet with men who were attempting to ruin their business.

CLERKS' STRIKE ENDS.

Bend, Ore., July 10.—The three-weeks' strike of retail clerks has been adjusted to the satisfaction of both parties. State Labor Commissioner Gram assisted in the negotiations.

LAUNDRY WORKERS GAIN.

Marysville, Cal., July 10.—Organized laundry workers at this place have raised wages 25 per cent.

NEW YORK BANKS LEAD PROFIT GOUGING PACK

New York, July 10. — Because of their refusal to obey laws regulating interest, bankers in this city make beef trust barons look like amateurs, says S. S. Fontaine, financial expert, writing in the New York World.

"There is no more autocratic and unrelenting body on earth than the New York money oligarchy — unless it is the governing committee of the New York stock exchange — and the broker or other borrower who defies it might as well go out of business," he says.

"Now the laws of New York state absolutely fix the interest rate of 6 per cent on all classes of loans, except demand loans in excess of $5,000, in which there is no restriction, and loans of commercial paper or collateral for a fixed period in excess of 6 per cent. Whether the excess is exacted in the form of bonus or commission is usury pure and simple, and the banker who practices it is a lawbreaker, and the only way that he gets away with it is that his victims do not dare complain. That would be the end of their credit."

The writer explains the methods of "these merry banking bandits," who set interest charges for loans at 8 and 9 per cent and then demand that the loans be paid on the ground that they need the money.

"And the same banks that have called loans in the morning at 9 per cent because they need the money are the principal lenders in the afternoon at 12 and 14 per cent. There is no money market on Saturday and the loan carries over till Monday at the high rate. Do you get the point? And the trail of all this leads straight to the floor of the stock exchange, where three men handle all the mechanism of the call money market for the account of the group of banks who engage in this form of profiteering with other people's money."

IS "PUBLIC" CRY SINCERE?

Chicago, July 10.—"We are hearing a great deal in these days of reconstruction about the wrongs and hardships that are inflicted on the general public by workers who go on strike," says President Perkins of the Cigar Makers' International union, writing in the official magazine of that organization.

"Legislation is proposed and enacted to prohibit strikes. Proponents of this class of legislation are loud in their declarations that it is to 'protect the public.'

"We, on the other hand, hear very little about the wrongs and hardships inflicted on the general public by the operator of a mine or mill who has the power, and exercises it, to operate or not, just as he wills, and has the power, and exercises it, to price the necessities of life beyond the reach of the average purse.

"There has been no strike in the sugar industry, in the meat industry, in the flour mills, nor have milk cows failed to deliver the goods, yet according to the annual reports of the gigantic combinations of capital controlling these industries prices were never higher and profits were never larger than for the past few months.

"Honest analysis of the causes of present inflated prices will give organized labor a clean bill and absolutely fix the blame where it justly belongs, on the shoulders of the profiteer."

SET WOMEN'S WAGE.

San Francisco, July 10.—A minimum wage ranging from $10 to $16 a week for women and minors employed in California stores is announced by the state industrial welfare commission. More than 20,000 workers are affected.

Apprentices under 18 years of age must be paid $10 and 18 or over $12 a week. The $10 wage must be raised to $12 at the end of the first six months and $14 at the end of a year. The workers under the $12 initial wage must be raised to $14 at the end of the first three months and to $16 at the end of the next three months.

No employer may employ as apprentices more than one-third of the total number of his women and female minor workers. The apprentices must be registered with the commission within two weeks after employment.

WORKERS PRODUCE MUCH.

Washington, July 10.—Exports from this country, last May, totaled $383,000,000, according to the United States department of commerce. During the same period there were imported into this country goods to the amount of $92,000,000, leaving a trade balance in favor of this country during the month of more than $290,000,000.

Despite this stupendous production by American workers publicity seekers and employers tell workers that they "are not producing a fair day's work."

UNIONIST KIDNAPED.

Birmingham, Ala., July 10.—When Organizer Moran of the United Mine Workers attempted to address a mass meeting of miners at Coal Valley he was placed in an automobile by company guards, and rushed out of that section.

In reporting the incident the daily press ignored this outrage and said Coal Valley miners refused to listen to the unionist.

Despite West Virginia tactics of some Alabama coal owners, the miners' union is making progress and continues to sign agreements.

OBJECT TO LOW WAGE.

Boston, July 10.—Employes of the Eastern Massachusetts Railway company declare they are paid the lowest wage in the country and ask that the present rate of 48 cents an hour be raised to 75 cents. Other demands include pay for overtime, one day off in every 15 with pay and extra pay for work done on Sundays and holidays.

WANT THUGS LICENSED.

Detroit, Mich., July 10.—Trade unionists are circulating petitions for the enactment of an ordinance to license private detectives and private detective agencies. The city is overrun with these gangs of cossacks that place themselves at the service of employers in industrial disputes.

UNION MAKES GOOD.

Bushnell, Ind., July 10.—The Carpenters' union has shown the value of organization by reducing the work day from 10 to nine hours and raising wages from 65 to 85 cents.

SMALL MONEY VENTURE YIELDS JUICY REWARD

Philadelphia, July 10.—In a suit by the Traylor Engineering and Manufacturing company of Allentown to recover $45,000 war taxes it was shown that two men were paid $1,137,000 on an investment of $1,100.

Papers filed in the suit showed that early in the world war Samuel E. Traylor saw the opportunity for making money out of foreign shell contracts. He got $600 from Henry E. Trexler of Allentown and $500 from James Phillips, jr., of New York, to pay the expenses of a trip abroad. When payments on the resultant contracts were completed he paid Trexler $650,000 and Phillips $487,000. The only other contribution of the two men was the use of their names and financial prestige in negotiating for the contract. Trexler later got permission from Charles E. Schwab for the Traylor company to use the proving grounds of the Bethlehem steel company to test the shells.

The company had paid $110,243 munition taxes to the government and later asked for a return of $45,000 on the ground that this amount was the tax on the money paid to Trexler and Phillips, and that the Trexler-Phillips account was part of the company's "operating expenses."

In deciding against the company Federal Judge Dickinson held that it is not in the meaning of the tax law for a corporation to pay out of its profits $1,000 for every dollar put into a venture, nor is it intended that a corporation pay a person $1,000,000 for going on its surety bond and by this method reduce the amount rightfully due the government.

WASTE OF WOMAN POWER.

Washington, July 10.—The waste of woman power is one of the greatest menaces to the rural life of the nation, according to deductions that specialists of the department of agriculture draw from a farm-home survey conducted in the 33 northern and western states. The records cover 10,015 farm homes.

The survey discloses a number of reasons why many women do not find farm life attractive. The working day of the average farm woman, as shown by the survey, is 11.3 hours the year round. In summer it is 13.12 hours, and out of each 100 women 87 have no regular vacation during the year. On the average, the farm woman can find only 1.6 hours of leisure during the summer and 2.4 hours in the winter. Half of the farm women are up and at work at 5 o'clock in the morning.

"At a time like this, when the dearth of farm labor is a limiting factor in production," says the report, "it is very doubtful business policy for farmers to use increased income to buy more land instead of using a part of it in raising standards of living so that women and young people will not want to go to the cities in search of attractive living conditions and amusement."

MEXICO'S WEALTH BLAMED.

New York, July 10.—Mexico's wealth is responsible for continuous trouble in that country, according to William H. Ellis, banker, on his return from a visit to the southern republic.

"A country that is poor nobody fights for and nobody cares about," he said, in calling attention to these sources of Mexican wealth:

A country that can produce three crops of corn a year, that averaged in 1918 more than 12½ per cent of the production of the oil of the entire world, that can produce gold, silver, copper, lead, timber, coal and fruits of both the torrid and temperate zones.

"There are today in Mexico lands selling from $1,000 up to $12,000 an acre in oil regions which 20 years ago I could have bought for 50 cents an acre, American money."

OBJECT TO TEN HOURS.

Tacoma, Wash., July 10.—The loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen, a company "union" controlled by lumber owners, objects to the 10-hour day. The legion is a non-strike organization, but when a mill at Hoquiam, this state, attempted to inaugurate the 10-hour day, its loyal legion employes quit work. Officers of the International Union of Timber Workers show that every attempt to establish the 10-hour day has been made in loyal legion mills. These unionists say that even if 10-hours would produce more, this is not necessary, as operations are closing down in the northwest because of no market.

The international union is conducting an eight-hour movement, which is opposed by the loyal legion.

MILITARISM IN SADDLE.

Galveston, Texas, July 10.—Military troops in control of this city stopped a meeting of the Galveston labor council. The meeting was discussing the election of officers at the time.

The troops have been in this city for several weeks because of a water front strike. Protests have been made by citizens generally against the presence of the troops as there has been no violence. The governor is charged with aiding cheap labor employers.

PRESSMEN MAKE GAINS.

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., July 10. —The current issue of American Pressmen, official magazine of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union, reports recent gains made in more than 50 jurisdictions. In all these localities decided wage increases have been made, and in many instances improved working conditions are reported.

BOILER MAKERS TO MEET.

Kansas City, Mo., July 10. — The triennial convention of the International Brotherhood of Boiler Makers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers will convene in this city September 13.

TEXTILE WORKERS UNITE.

Edgewood, R. I., July 10.—Textile workers have organized two locals at this place. They are chartered by the United Textile Workers, affiliated with the A. F. of L.

GET $1 AN HOUR.

Portsmouth, N. H., July 10.—Negotiation, backed by strong organization, has made it possible for the Carpenters' union to raise rates to $1 an hour.

CLASHING INTERESTS, NOT ABUSE, MAKE WAR

Philadelphia, July 10.—Clashing interests and not abuse of one nation by another nation is the cause of war, says the Philadelphia Public Ledger in an editorial entitled "Campaign Tail Twisters Cannot Make War."

"Clashing interests, when they are big enough, can create an artificial 'national ill will' almost over night," says this editor, who declares that any anti-English political oratory during the coming campaign is not a war factor.

"When the real war makers want to arouse public opinion to the war pitch, they send up flaming pyrotechnics before which these political 'squibs' pale into nothingness. The party tub-thumper will never start a war. He is far too insignificant.

"What is to be feared is clashing interests.

"We must all fight these explosive possibilities as we would fight the devil. What caused the Russo-Japanese war? Clashing interests in Korea and Manchuria. The Russians and the Japs hardly knew each other well enough to hate each other. Why did Britain undertake the tremendous expense of the Boer war? Clashing interests at Kimberley. Once that point was settled, the Briton and the Boer were quite ready to fight together on the same side. France has been the unforgetting enemy of Germany since 1870. Clashing interests. We probably would be as slow to admit it as the British would be to admit the basic cause of the Boer war, but if Cuba had been 3,000 miles away from our coasts, "Bloody Weyler" could probably have trampled his tragic path across that island for all of us.

"Interests are seldom guided by passion, prejudice or sentiment. They are well served by cool and far-seeing brains."

CHILDREN "GO IT ALONE."

Washington, July 10.—An army of more than 1,000,000 children between 14 and 16 years of age marches out of the schools each year to become wage earners, says the United States children's bureau.

Only a few children, it is stated, receive any aid from their parents in finding suitable positions, because parents do not know what opportunities are open to boys and girls, how to go about finding them or what is the best thing for a child to do. More than nine-tenths of these children go into "blind alley" jobs that require no skill and offer no opportunity for advancement. Many drift from job to job and become incapable of steady work. Some find work for which they are physically unfitted, sometimes to the permanent injury of their health.

The bureau says these conditions suggests the need for some organization in the schools, or in connection with the schools, to tell the children what and where the jobs are and what ability and training are required to fill them.

EMPLOYERS NON-PARTISAN.

Topeka, Kan., July 10.—Organized employers in this state denounce organized labor for its non-partisan political activity while these same bosses call on political parties to favor their demands.

In a letter to members, Secretary Sharp of the associated industries of Kansas, says:

"You have seen the platform adopted by the republican party at Chicago. You will note that it embodies many of the principles which our platform suggests, some planks being almost identical. The same attempt to have the democratic party take recognition of these principles will be made at the San Francisco convention."

Secretary Sharp, however, indicates that platforms should not be considered the final word, for, he says:

"Members should realize that both dominant parties are out to win in November. For that reason the definite expression of platform planks may not fully define the purpose for federal enactments by leaders of the two parties."

"OPEN" SHOP IS TRICK TERM.

Clinton, Iowa, July 10.—In an address to the Tri-city labor congress President Canfield of the Iowa state federation of labor called upon unionists to abandon the use of the term "open" shop, so widely favored by cheap labor employers.

He declared that the term "open" shop was a misnomer and its use misleading. In theory and practice it meant the non-union shop with the workers at the mercy of unfair employers, who could take advantage of the necessities and conditions of employes to impose any condition on them.

MAY DROP PIECE WORK.

Chicago, July 10.—Officers of the Cigar Makers' International union are calling attention to production changes in this industry that makes it necessary for these workers to give thought to the idea of changing the rate of pay from a piece work to a day or week rate.

It is stated that with the introduction of machines the cigar maker is becoming a specialist, and under this system he rarely learns the trade in its entirety.

MUSICIANS RAISE WAGES.

New York, July 10.—Wages of several thousand organized musicians have been raised. Negotiations covering several months nearly came to the breaking off point when these rates were agreed to: Dramatic productions, $45 a week; musical shows, $57; burlesque, vaudeville and motion picture theaters, $56 to $70.

METAL WORKERS AWAKE.

New York, July 10.—Sheet metal workers have launched an organizing drive in this city. These workers are not aiming at increasing their membership a few dozen, but are determined to scoop 'em in by the thousands.

WANT 40-HOUR WEEK.

New York, July 10.—Organized carpenters in this city are demanding a 40-hour work week.

PLUMBERS RAISE WAGES.

Toronto, Ontario, July 10. — The Plumbers and Steamfitters' union has raised wages to 80 cents an hour for its 700 members.

LABOR'S NON-PARTISAN PLAN DEVELOPS THINKING CITIZENS

Washington, July 10.—Reports to the A. F. of L. national non-partisan political campaign committee indicate that a different congress will be elected next November from the one that now exists.

The committee's intensive application of the 40-year political policy of organized labor has quickened workers everywhere. These workers do not want to be led. They do not want to be told who to vote for. They want to know how the men they elected to political office have voted on questions of interest to them. And they have instructed their trade union officials to supply this information. They want literature on the demands of labor and on gains made by the workers. With this information they insist on their right to cast an independent ballot guaranteed them when they joined the union.

The kingly idea of "leading the workers" has no place in the economic or political theories of the A. F. of L. The workers refuse to place this undemocratic power in the hands of any official or set of officials, and at every convention of the A. F. of L. labor's representatives have declared that they will continue on these lines until they have received other mandates from their membership.

These mandates are not forthcoming. Instead, the membership shows new zeal in applying the non-partisan theory. Never was organized labor so politically independent, so determined to support friends and defeat enemies, regardless of party.

The workers have done more than maintain this theory for 40 years. When they first advanced it they were confronted by intolerant political partisanship in every walk of life. Non-partisanship was classed as "freakish" by leaders of thought who believed that party allegiance was but one degree removed from loyalty to our country. The logic of events, however, again sustains labor's position and the situation is reversed.

Labor's program for social betterment is constructive. It includes co-operation based on the Rochdale system; government ownership and democratic operation of transportation; tax on unused lands, thereby releasing these large holdings for cultivation; unity between the scientists of industry and trade unions that order, discipline and greater production may result; publicity of income tax returns and dividends to ascertain excessive profits and dividends; government control of credits, because of their social nature, rather than control by privately owned banks.

Profiteers and special interests answer this demand for statesmanship with the cry, "Labor wants to be a privileged class."

In reply, labor calls upon the workers to educate and agitate. Labor is conscious of other tedious and successful struggles for remedial legislation; its fight against injustice is historic. Labor knows that the first requisite for legislation is a sound public opinion; to reach the minds and the heart of the people. It knows the value of solidarity, enthusiasm and right thinking and the present non-partisan political campaign has aroused it as never before to its duties as citizens and as trade unionists.

THUG ALMOST KILLS JUDGE.

Detroit, Mich., July 10.—While Judge Jayne was hearing the plea of employers for an injunction against striking plumbers, the court proved that one of the strikebreakers was a perjurer and that the judge himself came near being a victim of the thug's bullets.

The strikebreaker testified that he fired shots at a unionist named Harrington, who was pursuing him. Harrington had testified that he had never seen the strikebreaker and Judge Jayne then informed the strikebreaker that he recollects the shooting because he was in the vicinity at the time and came near being hit by one of the bullets. The court also stated that he had a clear recollection of the strikebreaker coming out of an alley, saying: "I wonder whether I got him that time."

The strikebreaker is one of a gang of "free and independent American workmen" that employers are paying high-priced lawyers to defend in their right to "work."

ANTIS ARE COMPROMISING.

Cincinnati, July 10.—"We favor the formation of shop committees to represent both the workingmen and the management," said Walter G. Merritt in a speech to business men in this city.

The speaker is not an employer. He is a lawyer and represents the league for industrial rights. This organization succeeds the anti-boycott association, which dropped that name when the league of nations announced in effect that any country that violated the provisions of the league would be boycotted.

Merritt has been engaged in many legal suits against organized labor. His statement what "we" favor would lead to the belief that he is a producer. A few years ago Merritt was shrieking for "the right of employers to run their own business," but now he is trimming his sails.

IMMIGRANTS COMING IN.

New York, July 10.—Immigrants are arriving as fast as they can obtain transportation, says Frederick A. Wallis, commissioner of immigration at this port. Last year's arrivals were about 20,000 less than the 354,254 that departed, but the commissioner says the incoming tide of aliens is steadily increasing and that most of the outgoing are bringing their families back when they return. He states that steamship agents report full passenger bookings far in advance.

Mexico City, July 10.—It is stated that 6,000 Mexicans emigrated to the United States last month.

EIGHT HOURS IN BELGIUM.

Brussels, Belgium, July 10.—Officers of the National Food Workers' union report that the eight-hour day is the rule in flour mills, bakeries, yeast factories, sugar factories and allied establishments.

The eight-hour day is a fact in practically every department of the leather industry, according to reports made by officers of the National Leather Workers' union. Wages have been increased to meet present living costs. The leather workers have raised dues and strike benefits.

DEFEAT BONUS PLAN.

Lorain, Ohio, July 10.—After a nine-weeks' strike against the National stove company stove mounters have abolished a bonus system, raised wages and established the eight-hour day.

Columbus, Ohio, July 10.—Recently organized stove mounters employed by the Emrich stove company were compelled to cease work to enforce improved conditions.

MANY MINERS KILLED.

Washington, July 10.—The federal bureau of mines reports that for every 235,900 tons of coal mined in this country last year one miner lost his life. The total number killed was 2,307.

WEST VIRGINIA MINERS OUT.

Williamson, W. Va., July 10.—Coal miners in this vicinity have suspended work rather than endure gun man rule and non-union conditions. The coal owners have refused to discuss a settlement of the strike with representatives of the United States department of labor and the wives and children of victimized miners are living in tent colonies as a result. These families have been evicted from company houses.

The miners are backed by the trade union movement of West Virginia. These workers have made repeated appeals to the state authorities and to the public conscience against the rule of murderous private armies maintained by the coal owners, but to no avail. Killings are frequent, working conditions are unbearable and discharge awaits any miner known to favor organization.

The miners have been forced to accept the challenge of these industrial bandits. Governor Cornwall remains blind to the coal owners' anarchy and is devoting his time to perfecting the American Constitutional association, of which he is president.

In a recent circular to its members this association denounced the union shop and declared: "The American Constitutional association is organized to preserve reverence for law."

DOLLARS ARE JINGLED.

Washington, July 10.—If American business men don't frown on anti-Japanese agitation in this country American dollars will be barred from the flowery kingdom is the word brought from the far east by Milton B. McIntosh of this city, who has returned from a five-months' trip to the orient.

Mr. McIntosh blames "certain men" for the anti-Jap feeling in California and says Seattle stands ready to welcome the Japs and incidentally rake in millions and millions of dollars that that government wants to spend with American business men.

The statement illustrates how far afield some men can go in discussing a question that is so deeply rooted in the economic and social life of the Pacific coast.

CIGAR MAKERS STICK.

Tampa, Fla., July 10.—Anti-trade union cigar manufacturers are surprised at the tenacity of several thousand employes who quit work rather than see 200 fellow unionists victimized. The fight is being directed by the Cigar Makers' union. In response to appeals for financial aid, which has been indorsed by the A. F. of L., trade unionists everywhere are responding to the call, and the purpose of the employers to starve the strikers has failed. The strikers urge that assistance be continued that they may secure the bare necessities of life.

TRUST "BUSTING" PAYS.

New York, July 10.—It is stated that since the dissolution of the old Standard oil company of New Jersey by the United States supreme court in 1912, the Standard oil companies have paid out in dividends $747,754,344.

During the first half of this year these companies distributed $54,110,[illegible] in dividends to stockholders.

Students of economics are wondering how much more the people would be called upon to pay if the court refused to "bust" this trust.

RAISE WAGES $1.50 A DAY.

Kansas City, Mo., July 10.—A wage increase of $1.50 a day has been secured by Horseshoers' union No. 18. A recent strike ended disastrously to both sides and since then employers and employed have concluded to negotiate.

WAGES UP TO $1.25.

Peoria, Ill., July 10.—Organized iron workers have pushed wages up to $1.25 an hour, as the result of a strike.

Creative power lies dormant where autocratic management prevails. No employer has a vested right to the good will of his employes. That must be earned, as between men. It can be earned only when management deals with workers as human beings and not as machines. There can not be a full release of productive energy under an autocratic control of industry. There must be a spirit of co-operation and mutuality between employers and workers. We submit that production can be enhanced through the co-operation of management with the trade union agencies which make for order, discipline and productivity.

We hold that the organization of wage-earners into trade unions and the establishment of collective bargaining are the first steps toward the proper development of our industrial machinery for service.

To promote further the production of an adequate supply of the world's needs for use and higher standards of life, we urge that there be established co-operation between the scientists of industry and the representatives of organized workers.—From "Labor, Its Protests, Grievances and Demands," adopted at Washington, D. C., 1919, by Labor's Representatives.